

# True or false: It's coin-quiz time again

By Roger Boye

**E**ven the novice should score at least six correct on this coin-and-currency quiz. As usual, answers are printed at the end, but no fair peeking.

1. True or false: Benjamin Franklin supported the selection of the bald eagle to symbolize the United States. Had he lived long enough, he likely would have enjoyed the eagle's depiction on U.S. coinage.

2. The federal government waited until 1861 to issue its first paper money under the Constitution. What types of bills circulated during the country's earliest years?

3. As people hoarded coins during the Civil War, what did businessmen use to make change? [A] Postage stamps encased in metal, [B] Tokens, [C] Government-issued paper money in denominations under 3 cents to 50 cents or [D] All of these.

4. True or false: The Confederate states printed millions of dollars' worth of paper money during the Civil War.

5. Years ago Uncle Sam produced four special coins commemorating Illinois events or anniversaries. Can you name them?

6. What coin first carried the motto "In God We Trust"? [A] The Lincoln penny in 1909, [B] 2-cent piece in 1864, [C] Buffalo nickel in 1913 or [D] Silver dollar in 1878.

7. Silver dollars minted from 1921 to 1935 are dubbed "peace." Why?

8. A Treasury seal adorns the front side of every U.S. \$1 bill printed today. Briefly describe the two symbols depicted within the seal.

9. True or false: When bureaucrats first struck the Washington quarter in 1932, they intended to issue the coin for one year only to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth.

## ANSWERS

1. False. In a 1784 letter to his daughter, he complained of the bird's bad moral character and added, "The turkey is a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America."

2. Currency issued by commercial banks or other businesses, local governments and even churches.

3. D.

4. True. But they made few coins—only 4 half dollars and 12 1-cent pieces.

5. The Columbian half dollar of 1892 and 1893 and the Queen Isabella quarter of 1893, both issued for the exposition in Chicago during 1893; the Illinois centennial half dollar of 1918; and the Elgin centennial half dollar of 1936.

6. B.

7. They memorialize the end of the Great War—World War I.

8. Scales representing equality and justice, and a key for official authority.

9. True.